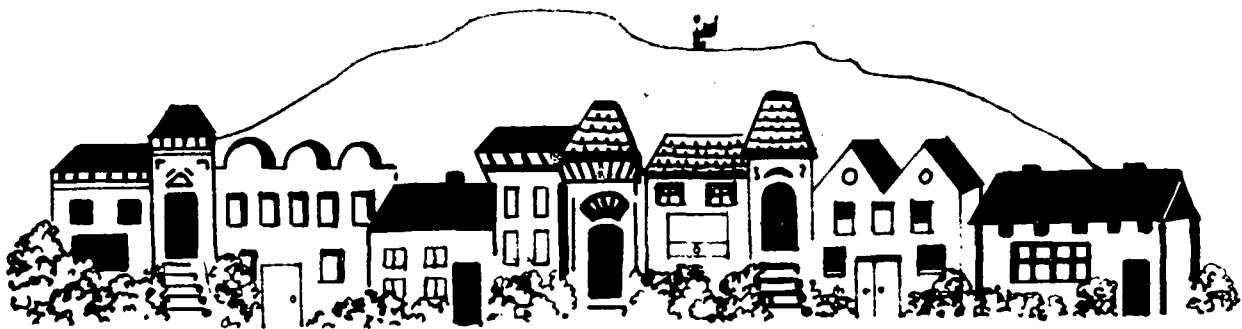
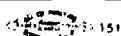


**NEW**



# BERNAL JOURNAL

August/September 1989



Volume 26 No. 4

*spotlight on ...*

## Cortland Avenue Merchants

On June 15, Cortland Avenue Merchants gathered at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center to talk about the possibility of organizing themselves. The meeting was facilitated by Claudia Viek, Director of SF Renaissance, an organization that assists small businesses. Captain Philpott from Ingleside Station, and several staff members from the Bernal Heights Community Foundation were also in attendance. Fortified by a large delicious pizza donated by John Athens at Pizza Express, the business people discussed their mutual needs, goals, and problems.

Long time neighborhood activist Antonia Momosea of Toni's Tradewinds Cafe, kicked things off with a joking suggestion that "we should just change the name of the street."

Red Webster of High Society took the most optimistic view: "Bernal Heights is centrally located. We're sitting on a gold mine. We need to modernize, invest in our businesses. People don't mind spending money if we give them something nice."

On the other hand, Sybil Marcus of Morgan's Hot Dogs would like to see more consistent foot traffic: "There aren't enough attractions on Cortland Avenue to keep people there." In an effort to respond directly to the neighborhood's needs, Morgans has expanded its line to include fresh baked goods from Bakers of Paris.

Annie Buttons, who recently opened Tigerlily—a Different Art Gallery, is very enthusiastic about the possibilities, but realistic about the problems: "I love the neighborhood, but the energy needs to be brought up on Cortland Avenue. Let's make it more exciting."

Mike Callagy, who has owned and operated the Arrow Pharmacy for 21 years, was skeptical about a Merchant's Association's chances for survival: "Merchants are willing to pay dues, but not as willing to attend meetings." Despite his doubts, he agreed to be a part of the Planning Committee.

Henry Hollander, owner of the Buffet Flats Bookstore, applauded Mike's willingness to take an active role: "Merchants should support each other. If we don't, we're not going to make it." Henry volunteered to chair the Planning Committee, and has already contacted the Mission Merchants Association.

Toni Grabbe of Marvin Gardens pointed out that accounts outside the neighborhood are what have enabled her to survive. She is also trying to upgrade her florist business by moving to a new location on Cortland Avenue. Watch for the opening of the new Marvin Gardens very soon.

Imre Mandoki, who lives and owns property on Cortland Avenue, and is planning to open a retail business in the near future, emphasized the need for a positive relationship with local landlords: "If we have an Association, we can more easily convince our landlords that it would be to our mutual advantage if they would improve their property."

Clifford Trusty of Trusty Designs grew up in Bernal Heights, and had a business on Cortland Avenue in 1980-82. He objects to the notion that the area is too poor to sustain upscale businesses: "My dresses sell for between \$50 and \$300, and I'm doing very well...We shouldn't assume that we only need cheap places."

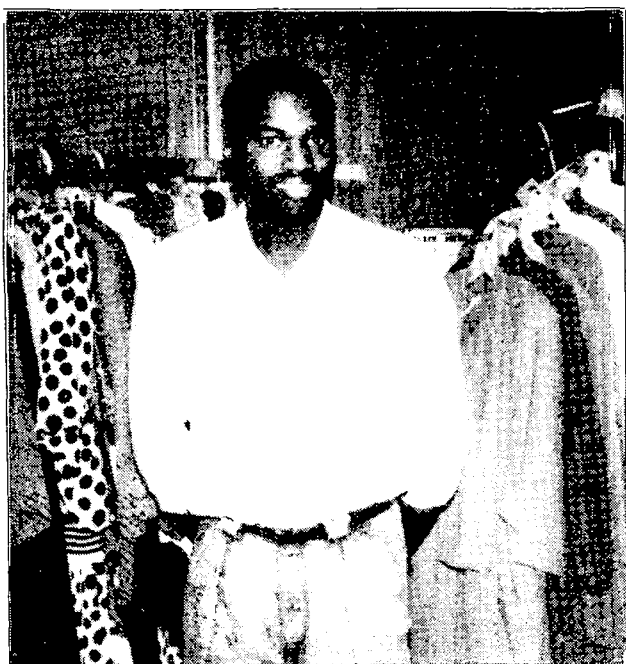
Other Cortland Avenue merchants who were unable to attend the



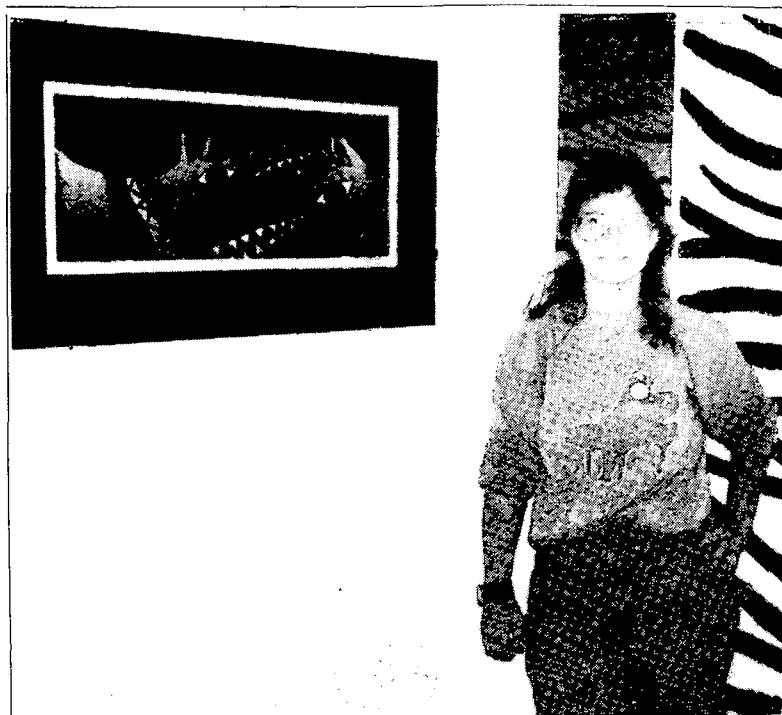
*Cortland Avenue Merchants meet, confer and organize.*

meeting expressed very similar views. For example, Jim Chisholm, who, with his wife Dorothy, has owned and operated SF Pet and Aquatics for 32 years, admits that they

*continued on page 3*



*Clifford Trusty's clothing designs are already well-known around Bernal Heights. He plans to add a line of mens' fashions in the fall. Check out Trusty at 511 Cortland Avenue.*



*Annie Buttons of Tigerlily—a Different Art Gallery, 410 Cortland Avenue. "The Gallery is part of the work," says Annie.*

# NEW BERNAL JOURNAL

515 Cortland Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 648-0330

The *New Bernal Journal* is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Community Foundation.

Deadline for the October/November issue is September 1. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space.

Circulation for this issue: 8,000

## New Bernal Journal Staff/Volunteers

**Editor:** Arthur B. Kalson  
**Youth Page Editor:** Eileen Dizon  
**Senior Page Editor:** Vicki Victoria  
**Production Crew:** Kay Daly, Eileen Dizon, Vicki Victoria  
**Design & Typography:** ZesTop Publishing  
**Advertising:** ABK, Gail Corbett  
**Photography:** Calico Graphics, Stan Moore, Smashing Images, Eileen Dizon  
**Printing:** Howard Quinn Co.  
**Distribution:** Diane Ross, Steve Antonaros, and a cast of hundreds!

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## Editorial

By Arthur B. Kalson

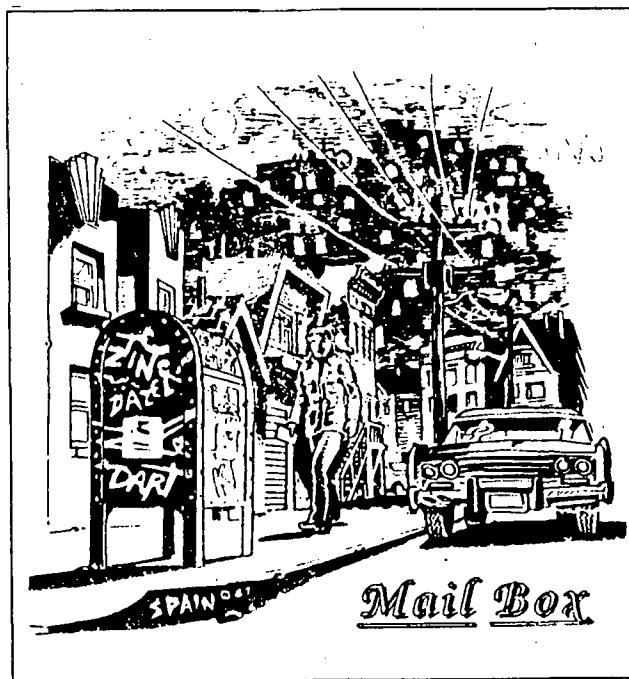
On Tuesday, June 27, there was a drive-by shooting on Ellsworth Street that left at least one person dead and several others wounded. I'm stunned by the horror of this. Frequent reassurances that "other places are worse" do not make me feel any better. So many lives are devastated by this plague of drug-violence, from the families, friends, and neighbors of the victims, to any of us who try to keep hope alive. As I talk to people around the neighborhood, I'm saddened and discouraged by the climate of fear and despair. Recently I met with a Bernal Heights resident who made what seemed like a mild comment on our drug problem. When they noticed that I had tape-recorded their statement, they begged me not to print what they had said for fear of reprisals. How can we live like this? Bernal Heights is one of the most united and politically knowledgeable communities in the city, and yet we find ourselves less and less able to deal with the negative forces around us.

Many people believe that jobs are the solution, but others ask, "How can a minimum-wage job compete with the big bucks in the drug trade?" When I was ten years old, I shoveled snow from people's sidewalks, and used that

money to buy my parents an anniversary present. It was hardly a fortune, but the feeling, the pride, the self-respect, could not be measured. We who are older, and spend our lives working and struggling to make ends meet, have lost touch with what it felt like to have our first job, to hold our first money in our hands. We have forgotten just what a job really is, and what it means. Think back to your own first job, your first pay, the first thing you ever bought with your own money. Try to bring back that youthful feeling of accomplishment and independence. Then hire a teenager. Do you need a chore done, windows washed, yard cleaned, babies watched? Pay a young person to do it for you. It can be a one-shot deal, or an on-going arrangement. Think of the few dollars it will cost you as an investment in the future. You will establish a relationship that will enrich your life, as well as point a young person in the right direction.

The Bernal Journal wants to help. Since we won't publish again until October, we can't do anything about the summer, but there are after school and weekend jobs that need to be done. So, starting with the next issue, the BJ will offer any person under the age of 21 a FREE Classified ad to list a name, phone number, and the kinds of jobs they can do. If you have any questions, or need help putting together your ad, call me at 648-0330, or come and see me at the BJ office.

## Letters to the Editor



would be appropriate if the Mail Box illustration could reflect this.

Marie Grimes

(Thank you for the suggestion. We have already spoken with the artist, Spain Rodriguez, and we hope to change the logo by our next issue.--Ed.)

Dear Editor,

Please let Francisco Carrasco know how impressed I am at his public service to the community thru his art in Bernal Heights.

He is the type of young man that I like to hear about, a real positive influence to his peers.

I am sure he will be a great success during his lifetime.

Nancy Thompson

Dear Editor,

While reading Supervisor Maher's article in the June/July issue of the Bernal Journal about charging for access to certain parts of Golden Gate Park, I was reminded of one of my former favorite things: tea in the Japanese Garden. I liked to pick a time when there would not be many people, perhaps a week day in February or a rainy afternoon. It was a wonderful place to reflect on the special things of the City, or just to enjoy a few minutes to relax before heading home to meet the kids on their way home from school and figure out what's for dinner. I didn't even mind when I had to pay an entrance fee to the Tea Garden, knowing that it requires more upkeep than other parts of the park. But when they no longer gave a discount to San Francisco residents, I decided that the "cover charge" for a cup of tea was just excessive. I think that those of us who use and support the parks the most, the people of San Francisco, should be given special consideration. I appreciate Supervisor Maher's intentions to reverse this trend of charging for public parks, and would like to be kept informed of what specific steps he is taking to accomplish this.

As an aside, I am pleased to notice that graffiti has been disappearing from the neighborhood. I think it



The Bernal Journal bids a sad farewell to Eileen Dizon, our Youth Page Editor, who has resigned to focus her energies on her Senior Year at Lowell High. Eileen has done a first-rate job of putting together her portion of the paper, as well as contributing in countless other ways. We'll miss her, and wish her every success.

# Cortland Avenue Merchants ...

continued from page 1

rely heavily on outside accounts. Nevertheless, he believes that "the right business can succeed on Cortland Avenue, if they'll just stick to basics. We've been able to survive because we're flexible."

Kim Lee, owner of the All-American Meat Market for 30 years, also depends on customers from outside the neighborhood to survive. "Business on Cortland Avenue is dead."

Imad Yaish from the Deli Pub Cafe, supports the idea

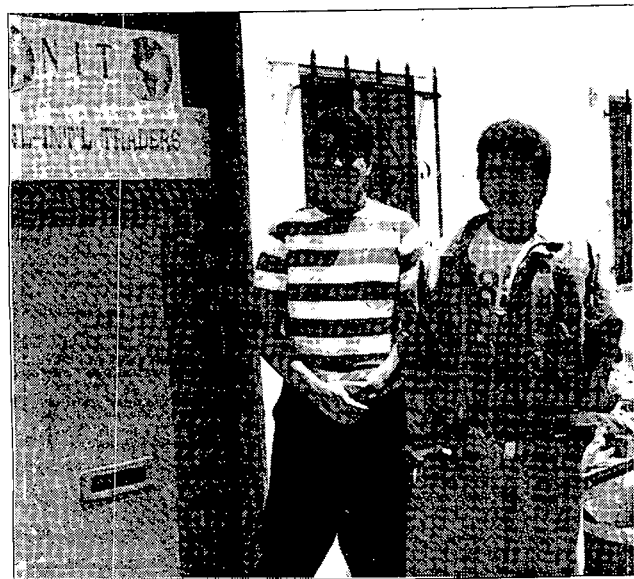


Imad Yaish at the Deli Pub Cafe. Imad believes that one important secret to success in business is the ability to communicate with customers.

of a Merchants' Association, but doesn't have much spare time. "I work seven days a week, so I don't really have time to attend meetings." He believes that success in business depends on the personality of the person who runs it. "You have to be able to communicate with your customers."

Many merchants would like to see more new businesses on Cortland Avenue. The most popular idea was for any Mexican, South or Central American restaurant. (Several people expressed an interest in soul food. *The Bernal Journal* has learned that Darryl Dorsey will soon be opening The Rib Cage on Mission Street, between 29th and 30th. He guarantees the best in ribs, links, and other related goodies. If you want a preview, give him a call at 282-6279 for a take-out order)

After a free-wheeling exchange, the group settled on four areas to focus their energies: 1. Create a Merchants' Association with clout. 2. Unite with landlords on the basis of common interests. 3. Upgrade Cortland Avenue storefronts and add more benches and trash baskets. 4. Improve promotion and marketing.



Miguel and Salvador Castillo of National-International Traders (N.I.T.). Miguel, who is taking a year off from a seminary, wants to contribute to the neighborhood by selling those items that people need and use at affordable prices.



Tina Webster, who is described by husband Red as "the brains of the whole operation," poses proudly in front of her High Society Hair Salon at 521 Cortland Avenue.

On Sunday, July 9, an ad hoc planning committee met at Toni's Tradewinds Cafe to continue the discussion and prepare for the next general meeting, which was held on July 18 at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.



Another Large-to-Go from Pizza Express at 919 Cortland Avenue! Owner John Athens would like to see more trees on his part of Cortland Avenue. He is shown here with John D'Amico, Christina Relucio, and Ramesh Lama.



Wing H. Yee and Kim Lee invite you to visit the All-American Meat Market at 615 Cortland, which they have owned for thirty years. Although the market is thoroughly modern, you can still see some of the original fixtures from when it first opened in 1909.

Again facilitated by Claudia Viek, this meeting attracted members of a dormant Merchants' Association from the past, Laura Partida from Golden Comb, and attorney Nancy White. Everyone was pleased to discover that an organizational structure still existed and that there was even some money in the treasury. Tess Beistel from the Bernal Heights Open Space Committee presented a plan



Manager Lisa Marie and Staff Assistant Lisa Lisa celebrate the grand opening of High Society Nail Salon, owned by Red & Tina Webster.

to increase the number of tree plantings on Cortland Avenue, an idea that was enthusiastically received by the merchants. Henry Diaz, General Foreman from the Department of Public Works, discussed nuts-and-bolts

ways of dealing with such nagging problems as trash disposal and street cleaning.

One specific and important decision that was reached by the group was that, in order to have a vote in the organization, an individual business operator must be an active dues-paying member. Some of the old-timers recalled when this proviso was not in effect, and meetings were no more than frustrating shouting matches.

So the nascent Cortland Avenue Merchants' Association has taken another step forward, and shows promise of lots more progress. Interested merchants can find out more information by contacting any of the business people listed in this article, or by calling the Bernal Heights Community Foundation for more details.



Khaled Elgendy, owner of King Tut Restaurant and Deli at 803 Cortland Avenue, gets some sage advice from retired restaurateur Steve Brazar.



# Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center Calendar for August/September

## Regular Meetings at the Center:

Daily: Senior Program  
9:00-3:00pm

### Ongoing:

Narcotics Anonymous (NA)  
Mondays and Wednesdays 7:30pm  
AA Meetings: Thursdays at 7:30pm  
Girl Scouts: Tuesdays at 4:00pm  
ALA-NON: Thursdays at 8:30pm

### Special:

South Bernal/Holly Court  
Tuesday, August 8th at 7pm

For Meeting dates of the East Slope Preservation Committee/Design Review Board; NW Design Review Board; South Bernal Neighbors; and NW Bernal Block Club (which meets at Cafe Commons), please call the BHCF at 648-0330.

### BHCF Meetings:

BHCF Board - ALL WELCOME  
Monday, August 21st - 7pm  
Monday, September 18th - 7pm

For Youth, Hispanic Outreach, Planning, Housing and Development, and Outreach, please call the Foundation at 648-0330 for dates and times.



One of the rare occasions when the staff of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation isn't eating: Standing, l to r: Arthur B. Kalson, Editor of the BJ; Helen Helfer, Executive Director; Anthony Singleton, Youth Coordinator; Edward Ho, Bookkeeper. Seated, l to r: Mary Franklin, Secretary; Vicki Victoria, Senior Program Director; Mike Noon, Housing Rehab Director.

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The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center bids a sad farewell to our Secretary, Mary Franklin, who has moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to be with her family. Mary's skill, radiant smile, and good common sense will be missed by the entire neighborhood, and especially by those of us who had come to depend on her for so much. Good luck, Mary!

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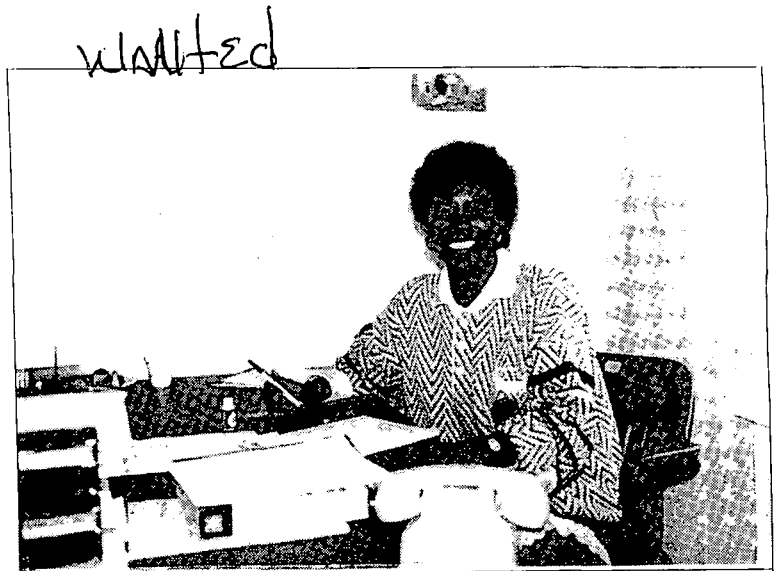
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The Bernal Heights Community Foundation welcomes to the staff Peggy Turnipseed, who now serves as Neighborhood Youth Organizer. Peggy's specialty is job development, so if you're looking for a job, or need some advice or assistance, contact Peggy at the Neighborhood Center, 648-0330.

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# Your Branch Library's Outlook For The Future

By Cathy Bremer  
Branch Librarian

Bernal Heights Branch Library is one of six branches classified by the Library System as a "small neighborhood branch." That means it serves a small population, has a small collection, and a very small budget for staff and materials. The Library System is expecting a cut of between \$150,000 and \$300,000 in the materials budget for 1989-90. This cut will be applied across the board and Bernal Heights Branch is scheduled to receive what has been described as "a pittance" by one of the Library's coordinators. This continues a three year trend of diminishing funds.

The Mayor has promised that this trend of downward purchasing power will come to an end after this year. The City's budget deficit will be behind us, and the Library will be able to look forward to actual growth and development of new programs and resources.

And to some extent the future does look bright--we will have a new Main Library within the next decade. We must make sure that this promise of "newness" is extended to the neighborhoods as well. How would you like to see this important community resource improved in the 1990's? What services, materials, hours, staffing levels, and facilities would you like to see?

The Library is in now the process of producing a long-needed Strategic Plan for future service and development. This will probably be the most important activity of the Library System in the coming year. Since the present budget precludes any immediate growth, and in fact imposes a state of backward movement on the Library, our best hope lies in the future.

Bernal Heights is a strong community of people dedi-

cated to improving the quality of life in our neighborhood. We came out in large numbers in 1981 when the branch was threatened with closure. We are needed now. There are a number of avenues available for action in the coming year.

## Get Involved In The Library System's Planning Process.

Attend hearings on the Strategic Plan scheduled for the coming year. Let the Library Commission and the Mayor know what you want community libraries to become. This is where the future of San Francisco Library Service will be decided.

## Join The Council Of Neighborhood Libraries As A Representative Of Bernal Heights.

The Council was created as an outgrowth of the protest at Glen Park and Noe Valley residents when their libraries were threatened with closure in 1988. The group of about 30 reps meets bi-monthly. While generally political in nature, the Council's specific mission has not yet been defined beyond their dedication to improvement of branch library services. Talk to me if you want to become involved in the Council.

## Contribute To Our Gift Fund, Or Donate New Books, Magazine Subscriptions, Records Or Tapes To Improve Our Collection Immediately.

Talk to me or Dorothy Coakley, our Children's Librarian, about what you might like to contribute. If you have culinary talents, we gratefully accept food contributions for our Summer and Holiday Parties. Our next one will be August 30.

## Use Your Bernal Branch Library Regularly.

This is the most important one of all!! Circulation=\$\$\$\$. Check out books, records, magazines, tapes and pamphlets. You will often find the latest best-sellers on the shelves just waiting for you to enjoy, and if someone else has beaten you to your favorite, we can reserve it for you. By checking out John LeCarre's *Russia House*, or Alice Walker's *Temple of My Familiar*, you will save yourself \$19.95 and help the library, too. There is a treasure trove of books for your children at the library, from board books for infants and toddlers to mysteries for young adults. Bernal Branch is your connection to the collection held at the Main Library and all Branch Libraries in San Francisco. Books can be delivered to your local branch from any library in the City at your request.

## Ask Questions.

Any and all questions will be answered, or referred to the place with the correct answer. Call us, or come in to take advantage of this service. Questions answered recently include: "I read a story 10 years ago. I think it was called 'The Pear Tree.' Can you help me locate it?" "I need to repair a remote control car. Can you help me find a diagram?" "I need information about Mad Meg, a witch who lived in Europe in the 15th Century."

## Use Our Apple Computer.

Type your resume, make a mailing list, or produce a spreadsheet. Brush up on your

typing skills. Come in with your kids to sharpen your math skills, or make a greeting card for Grandma.

## Use Our Group Facilities.

We have a meeting room available for non-profit use during our open hours. Post your group's flyers and announcements in the Library's Information Center.

## Attend Programs.

They are always informative and entertaining. Suggest the types of programs that you would like.

## Remember: All Library Services Are Free.

The Bernal Heights Branch Library is and will continue to be what we make of it.

## Library Schedule Of Events For August/September

Bernal Heights Library  
500 Cortland Avenue  
285-1744

Tuesdays ... 10-6  
Wednesdays ... 1-9  
Thursdays ... 1-6  
Fridays ... 1-6  
Saturdays ... 1-6

During the next two months, we will be combining our Tuesday morning lapsits and preschool storytime to one program at 10:30 am each Tuesday. Groups are invited to participate, but should call Dorothy Coakley for reservations.

Family Night is every Wednesday evening, with children's stories beginning at 7 pm. Frequently there is a simple crafts program after the stories.

Children's films are scheduled for Tuesday, August 15 and Tuesday, September 12 at 10:30 am, and Wednesday, August 16 and Wednesday, September 13 at 7 pm. Call us for titles.

Pamela Grey will bring the Good Samaritan Dance Club to the Library on Wednesday, August 23 at 7 pm. This performance is sponsored by the California Community Arts Council and the Friends of the San Francisco Library.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM, "FLIGHTS OF FANTASY", ENDS ON AUGUST 11. Finish your books and win a kite!

Our big SUMMER OPEN HOUSE will be on Wednesday, August 30 at 7 pm. Children who have completed our summer reading program will receive their certificates, so don't forget to bring parents, grandparents, and cameras. Latin rock sounds will be provided by a great band, The Heights, the pride of Bernal Heights. Refreshments will be served. Don't miss this FREE special event for the whole community.

KID POWER, the young-teen group, will officially end during the last week of August with a pizza party.

Our theme for September is "Friends, Far and Near." We will be saying goodbye to many young summer visitors from places as far away as Arkansas, New York, Korea, and Nicaragua, and we want to keep in touch. If you would like a pen-pal, September is the month to ask Dorothy for one! And don't forget that Vivian Sykes misses you. If you want to write to her, we'll see that she gets it.

BACK TO SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER. Paul Revere Elementary School will be at Fremont School this fall, but kids from the neighborhood should remember that we will be working closely with the school librarian, Mrs. Dahl, to get you the books you need for your homework, or just for fun!

## Bernal Homeowners... thinking of selling?

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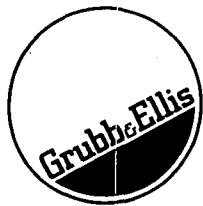


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# Local Artist With A Message Of Hope

Frank Navarro, independent film producer-director and well-known local musician and dancer, announces the premiere of his motion picture "Flask" (rated pg-13), filmed in San Francisco. "Flask," which stars Ralph Castellanos and Aldo Ray, along with Frank himself, ad-

resses the problems of homelessness, alcohol, and drugs. Frank's father, Carlos Navarro, Executive Producer and supporting actor, is especially proud of the film's positive message for young people. "We tried to break down the racist stereotypes of Blacks and Latinos, as well as prejudices about homeless people, in the context of an exciting and entertaining martial arts action movie," explains Carlos.

Bernal Heights residents will recognize some members of the cast. Kay "Kitty" Allen, owner of Kitty's restaurant, donated the use of her popular diner as a location for the project, and has a small speaking part. Other neighborhood locations which appear include Daniel's Haircut and the Navarro Kenpo Karate Studio.



Frank (Frank Navarro) is kind to homeless Flask (Ralph Castellanos), eventually helping him regain control of his life.

# Artistes Locales Con Un Mensaje De Esperanza

Traduccion: Porfirio Maldonado

Frank Navarro, cineasta independiente, producer-director, musico y bailarín local muy conocido anuncia el estreno de su película "Flask" (apta para PG-13), filmada en San Francisco. "Flask" tiene como actores a Ralph Castellanos, Aldo Ray, y el propio Frank Navarro. La película encara problemas de los desamparados (homeless), alcoholismo y drogas. Carlos Navarro, padre de Frank, Productor Ejecutivo de la película y también actor, manifiesto su orgullo por la película porque ensena a los jovenes un mensaje positivo. "Tratamos de romper los estereotipos racistas hacia los negros y latinos, como también los prejuicios sobre los desamparados en el contexto de una película de accion al estilo de las artes marciales, con mucho animacion y entretenimiento," dijo Carlos.

Los residentes de Bernal Heights haran su reconocimiento a algunos de los actores. Para el montaje de la película, Kay "Kitty" Allen, propietaria del Kitty's restaurant, dono el uso de su popular local, e inclusive ella misma tiene una pequena parte en usa de las escenas. Otros locales también aparecen en esta produccion, entre ellos Daniel's Haircut y Navarro Kenpo Karate Studio.

La familia Navarro, como muestra de su compromiso con la comunidad donara generosamente el 50 porciento de las ganancias del estreno a Mission Economic and Cultural Association (con siglas MECA) y también a Real Alternative Program (RAP), organizacion que opera en Potrero Hill.

La recaudacion de fondos para estas organizaciones sera por una semana, entre el 18 al 24 de agosto, con dos espectaculos por dia (1 pm y 7:30 pm) en el Grand Theater, ubicado en la calle Mission, numero 2665. Se programa la presencia de Danny Glover, Paulo Tocha y Carlos Santana, como también de los miembros de los 49ers, los Giants y muchos otros grupos populares. Vistase de fiesta, vaya al cine, y apoye a nuestros artistas locales.

In keeping with the Navarro family's commitment to the community, they will generously donate 50% of the proceeds from the film's premier run to M.E.C.A. (Mission Economic and Cultural Association) and to the group homes operated by Potrero Hill's Real Alternative Program (R.A.P.).

The fund-raising film event will show for one week, August 18-24, with two daily screenings at 1 pm and 7:30 pm at the Grand Theater, 2665 Mission Street. Danny Glover, Paulo Tocha, and Carlos Santana are slated to appear, as well as members of the 49ers, the Giants, and many community groups.

So put on your party clothes, go to the movies, and support your local artist.



The multi-talented Navarro family, Carlos, Sr. and Frank, with Kitty Allen, whose restaurant is one set for the movie "Flask".

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# Bernal Hilltop Natural History: The American Kestrel

By Barbara Pitschel

The subject of this article is one I last wrote about in the *Bernal Journal* of October 1977 (v. 14, no. 6). Some of you may remember; others are newer to the neighborhood. I think it is worth reminding everyone to look for this fascinating neighbor.

The dry months of late summer and early autumn, which mark the season of dormancy for our California coastal flora, provide an opportunity to observe other members of the Bernal ecological community. This is the perfect time of year to watch American kestrels (*Falco sparverius sparverius*), which are easiest to recognize on windy afternoons. They are hovering almost motionless in the air over the west slopes of the hill, in search of grasshoppers. These birds were formerly called sparrow hawks, an extremely misleading misnomer. Sparrow hawks are large European accipiters (true hawks) which hunt sparrows. Kestrels are the smallest of North American falcons, slightly larger than robins but smaller than pigeons, which subsist primarily on insects and mice. Sparrows and finches, which react violently at the sight of large hawks, complacently share the telephone wires with kestrels.

Female kestrels are larger than the males; males are more brightly colored, having blue-grey wings. Both have rusty backs, rusty tails banded in black, and the following distinctive head markings: rusty crown above grey band, white cheeks striped in black, white throat, and black ear spot. Their call is a high pitched "klee, klee, klee" or "killy, killy, killy."

Like all birds of prey, kestrels have extraordinary vision, permitting keen discrimination of form, distance, and motion. Large eyes permit a large image to be cast on the retina. There are two dense concentrations of visual cones in each eye, which increase depth perception; the forward

ones give binocular vision. There is a high ratio of optic nerve fibers to visual cells. The muscles that control lens curvature, and therefore regulate focal length, are highly developed. Magnification is three or four times greater than ours, enabling the bird to see a grasshopper from a distance of 50 to 80 feet.

When a hovering bird spots prey, it dives to the ground, grabs the food with its talons, and resumes hovering.

In this position, it eats its insect (although larger prey, such as a mouse, would probably necessitate return to a perch). On windless days kestrels frequently perch on poles or wires, which afford a good view of the surrounding terrain. When they observe suitable prey, they dive. A perched bird can frequently be identified by a characteristic bob of the tail by which it maintains its balance.

Bird behavior indicates that Bernal is probably the home territory for at least one nesting pair each year. During the winter a male and a female are frequently seen. The majestic soaring and diving of the male appears to be courtship behavior, very different from hunting flight during which the bird's attention is focused on the ground. From March until June, kestrels are rarely to be seen,

which coincides with the nesting season of the species. Kestrels are not fastidious in their nesting behavior. A typical nest site would

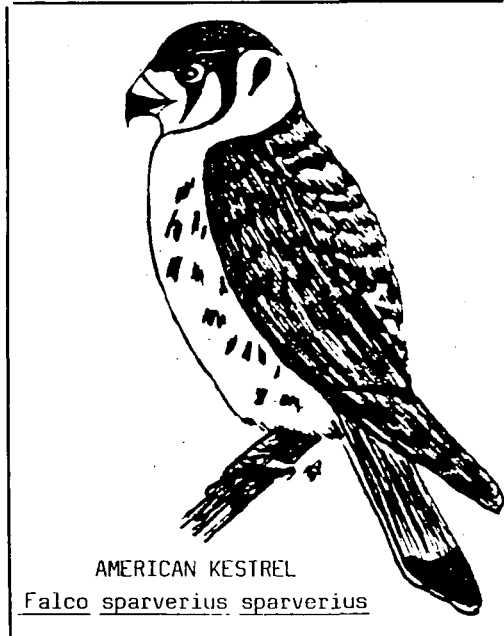
be an unadorned tree hole, frequently one abandoned by another species, or a similar feature of a building, both of which would be common around the perimeter of Bernal Hill. In June the birds appear again, often as many as four or five hovering on wind currents, which would coincide with the fledging of the young.

Some years, during the height of the grasshopper season, I have seen as many as eight kestrels hovering at one time. Such large numbers may coincide with drought years, as the mortality rate among young birds due to parasites is high during wet weather. It is interesting to note that kestrels are extremely tolerant of aridity; they do not require water because they obtain sufficient liquid from their prey.

During autumn the disheveled appearance of some of the birds indicates a moult. Fewer birds are seen, indicating the end of the grasshopper banquet and possibly dispersal of the young to establish territories of their own.

Come look for kestrels and other members of Bernal's flora and fauna when you join

Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project work parties on the third Sunday of each month. Mark your calendars for August 20 and September 17. Meet on Bernal Heights Boulevard at the entrance to the phone company road at 11 a.m. Bring clippers if you have them. For further information, call me, Barbara Pitschel at 282-5066.



AMERICAN KESTREL  
*Falco sparverius sparverius*

## The Bernal Hill Sidewalk Astronomer

By Tom Kellogg

This is a wonderful time of year for me in terms of watching the sky. It was in August of my 20th year that I first attended a planetarium in Rochester, N.Y. A few weeks later I left home to attend a college in Kansas where my physics professor fed my new-found interest with stories and facts about the stars during our frequent star show outings. I soon bought Peterson's Field Guide To The Stars & Planets, and I was on my way to a long friendship with our heavenly neighbors.

The Big Dipper, along with Arcturus, have now moved toward the west. So also has the "window" (which I mentioned in the last issue of the *Bernal Journal*) through which we can see outside of our own galaxy to other galaxies many millions of light years away. The dust clouds and star clusters of our own galaxy, "The Milky Way," have now moved high overhead, with a vast array of "near by" spectacles which are astounding in size and grandeur. Viewing such collections of dust and stars (gigantic nuclear reactors) is humbling and at the same time reassuring in the infinite nature of the universe. It's comforting to know that there's a power greater than we humans that is creating such a beautiful, harmonious universe to live in.

Looking east from the Big Dipper and Arcturus the first bright star you see is Vega in the constellation Lyra (the Harp). Vega is 58 times brighter than our Sun (think of a 10 watt light bulb compared to a 5,800 watt search light). It is 27 light years away and its diameter is 3 times that of our sun (our Sun's diameter is 1 million miles). Our solar system is moving toward Vega at 43,200 miles per hour! Lyra is a small constellation consisting of Vega, a fainter star just east of Vega, and four fainter stars that form a parallelogram south east of Vega. Between the bottom two stars of the parallelogram is a famous nebula called The Ring Nebula of Vega, or M57. "M" stands for Charles Messier, who used a 3 1/2" telescope in the pre-electricity dark sky of Paris from a tower observatory at the Hotel de Cluny to catalogue over 100 false alarms in his search for comets back in the 18th Century.

Planetary nebulae have the appearance of a dim planet with a disc shape, and are generally of two types: the remnants of a dying star or the gathering of gas that will form a new star. The Ring Nebula of Lyra is the doughnut-shaped leftover from a dying star, but you'd need a large telescope to see the hole in the middle. It's actually a sphere of gas that's 2,790,000,000,000 miles in diameter or 30,000 times the distance from the Earth to the Sun.

I could go on for pages about the beauties of our nighttime sky show.

I hope that you'll borrow a book from our Bernal Branch Library on stargazing, and then come join me and my telescope on almost any clear night at the top of the Eugenia Street stairway.

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for the use of their stage  
Don Franklin, PG&E,  
for printing posters  
Bridge Housing,  
for room dividers

*We would like to thank  
the following wonderful  
people for volunteering  
their time, talent, and  
help to make our 1st  
Annual Arts Festival a  
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Debbie Medina

*The Arts Festival in June  
Many neighborhood musicians,  
poets and sculptors shared  
enthusiastic audiences. A success  
couldn't have been possible  
without the participation of  
lots of different elements  
like to take this opportunity  
individuals, groups, and businesses  
support. Thank you, everybody,  
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*Laura Barciaga made many children happy with her craft skills. Although Demetrius Dunbar looks a bit disappointed with the results.*



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*py with her delightful face painting a little skeptical, he was very happy*

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By Jessica Murray

September is a big month for star-watchers. Four planets out of the ten in our system will stop moving and change direction (it's an optical illusion, of course, but then everything that has meaning astrologically is gauged from Earth's point of view).

On September 11th both Saturn and Mercury will make "stations," as these shifts are called. Mercury's retrogradation from that day until October 3rd means that communications will not easily proceed along normal channels (see June/July "Astro-rap"). Saturn will turn direct, accounting for a gradual release from the feeling people have been having all spring that our projects have been on hold. Uranus goes direct September 9th which may register as a headline grabbing surprise which pulls us one step further into 21st century thinking.

And last but not least - though surely the most subtle - Neptune goes direct the morning of September 21st. This is the planet of illusion, and it will now begin to expose the fraud and insubstantiality of our societal institutions in earnest, leading up to a crescendo in November. Stay alert!

For Astrological Consultation and classes call Jessica Murray at 626-7795.

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**YOUTH AWARE,** a program designed to educate elementary school students about alternative ways to respond to substance abuse, and to family situations in which alcoholism and other addictions exist, needs volunteers.

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Traducido por Eugenia DiStefano

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El programa es gratis y abierto a todos los adolescentes y sus familias. Los consejeros estan disponibles en español e ingles a travez del programa en la oficina de la calle Lawton, tel. 665-5100, o en la oficina de la calle Valencia, tel. 550-1193. Los adolescentes y los demas miembros de la familia deberan llamar para concertar una cita.

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Non-judgmental approach. Call Alina Ever at the National Council on Alcoholism-Bay Area at 861-4000, or write for a brochure and application to 1049 Market Street, Suite 507, San Francisco, CA 94103-1605.

**The Bernal Heights Archives Project** meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 pm at the Bernal Library, 500 Cortland Avenue. Bring your photos and memories of Bernal to share.

**St. Anthony's Distribution Center** supplies free furniture and household items to people in need. Beds, tables, and other furniture in good, useable condition are desperately needed now. To arrange for donation pick-up service in San Francisco and Daly City call 863-4512.

**The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners** and its Board of Directors invites you to visit San Francisco's Community Gardens. Please join us on Wednesday, August 30 on the steps in front of City Hall on Van Ness Avenue at 4:30 pm. Our bus will visit some neighborhood gardens and will return to City Hall by 6pm. Please RSVP to S.L.U.G., 2540 Newhall Street, SF CA 94124, or call Danielle Le Fer at 468-0111.

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The program is free, and open to San Francisco teens and their families. Spanish and English-speaking counselors are available through the program's Lawton Street office, 665-5100, or the Valencia Street office, 550-1193. Teens or family members should call for an appointment.

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# Homeless Policies

By Art Agnos

Homeless people have been spending the night in Civic Center Plaza for several years. They are there because we do not have enough low-cost housing to accommodate them.

If we roused the homeless from Civic Center without offering a humane alternative, they would simply surface in some other park or some business doorway.

The general public can and does use the plaza lawns for sunning and recreation. A very successful carnival was held in that location recently. The homeless did not interfere with public enjoyment of the festival. The only incident occurred when a political group refused to comply with Health Department rules for distributing food to the public, and was cited for violation of health codes. That group, Food Not Bombs, has been trying to create confrontation. They are not homeless and do not speak for the homeless.

Some politicians and opinion writers have suggested that because some political group demonstrates, we should arrest the homeless for breaking laws against sleeping in a public place.

That simplistic "get tough" response ignores the reality that our jails are operating under court orders to reduce overcrowding and that we barely have room for criminals, let alone the homeless, in our prisons.

The fact is, San Francisco is not a magnet for the homeless. There are homeless on the streets and in the parks of every major city in the United States. The short-



age of low-cost housing is a national reality caused by a variety of factors. Federal aid for low-cost housing was cut more than 75% during the Reagan years.

Rents in the most abject slum hotels in the City are often higher than welfare recipients and some working poor can pay. The City tried to compensate for this by setting up hot line hotel rooms and overnight shelters. that provides shelter for about 2500 people. Every night they are filled to capacity.

I have said we are not going to throw more money at one-night-stand programs that give the homeless no hope of changing their state. And we are not. Our resources are being directed toward finding permanent transitional housing that will enable people to exit the state of homelessness.

My budget includes \$1.5 million to acquire a 24-hour referral and service center for the homeless. All five of the transitional housing grants we applied for under the new federal McKinney act have been successful. The City will soon receive \$6 million in federal dollars for various housing programs, including a residential center for the mentally ill.

These are not quick fixes. They are part of an overall homeless plan to

provide real solutions to a very real problem.

In the meantime, we have set in motion various strategies to help relieve the situation in Civic Center Plaza. Several weeks ago I sent medical and social workers into the Plaza to direct those eligible to aid programs. All homeless were advised that they would have to limit their belongings to what could be carried in order to provide full access to the park. We provided temporary storage facilities, and a great many homeless have used them.

That process moved forward and is being completed exactly as I said it would. "Kick the bums out" is an empty slogan, not a sound policy. I am taking the time to do things right because homelessness is a problem I am trying to solve, not a situation I am trying to exploit.



A relaxed Mayor Art Agnos chats with members of the Bernal Heights Democratic Club.

## BJ And The Mayor or, Arthur Meets Art

By Arthur B. Kalson

Last June, I got to meet the Mayor, and ask him some of the questions that concern Bernal Heights residents. Every three months, he invites the San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association to have lunch with him in his office. The lunch was great; thick meaty sandwiches on sourdough rolls, a voluptuous pasta salad, lots of non-alcoholic beverages, and a variety of gooey desserts. Once I got over my initial awe over actually having lunch with the Mayor of San Francisco, I noticed that Art Agnos is really putting on weight. During our two-hour press conference, I watched him devour two sandwiches, a heap of the pasta salad, and two bottles of flavored mineral water. I had the feeling that, as soon as we left, he'd be heading straight for the dessert tray. The Mayor probably has ten meetings a week like this, all punctuated with mayonnaise and chocolate mousse tort. He's already a big man, so he'd better be careful. He's starting to develop political love handles.

As I sipped my coffee, personally poured for me by the Mayor, I looked around the room at my colleagues. Every editor present, including me, was white. The Mayor's two assistants were white. There were no Blacks, Hispanics, or Asians in the room. This was hardly a cross-section of San Francisco's neighborhoods, let alone San Francisco's Neighborhood Newspapers. I'm alarmed to

see how segregated we still are.

We each took a turn describing our communities' problems to the Mayor. Sometimes he took notes, or asked a question. Twice he left the room briefly, and both times, his assistants immediately jumped in to keep the conversation flowing. When my turn came, I mentioned the Coleridge Park Apartments, crime, the continuing need for affordable housing, the new zoning regulations, and the problem of alleged illegal immigrants hanging out at Valencia and Mission, begging for jobs and harrasing people. I pointed to an article in the last issue of the BJ by James Haas that recommended a half-percent increase to the sales tax to pay for public transportation improvements. Since Agnos had repeatedly mentioned his distaste for raising taxes, I asked him about this plan, which will in fact be on our ballots in November. He expressed strong support for the measure, and stated that the money raised would be used "not to maintain what we've got, but to build on it." He excitedly described the planned quarter-billion-dollar overhaul of the Embarcadero and the Mission Bay corridor, which will include a Light Rail Vehicle system, landscaped walkways, and restored trolley cars, "whether we put a stadium there or not." I tried to press the issue. Where will the money come from to maintain the existing transportation system? He sidestepped the question by focusing on the wonders of the Mission Bay Project, and segueing to the prospects for a new baseball stadium. The stadium is one of the hottest issues of the

day, and Agnos spent a great deal of time talking passionately about it. He clearly does not want to be The Mayor Who Lost the Giants. Nevertheless, those of us who depend on the 24-Divisadero may not see much direct benefit from either the Mission Bay Project or a new ballpark.

Of course, most of the talk centered on the Mayor's proposed budget, which had just been announced, and has already been revised a few times. Agnos is very proud of the budget. The deficit has been reduced to \$57 million, and there is an overall increase in spending for health and human services. "Because of the things we put in place last year, it was easier to deal with the deficit this year...By next year, we'll see surpluses..." claimed the Mayor. He became very angry when he discussed accusations that there was never a real deficit to begin with. "The deficit is real," he declared, "and this liberal Democrat is handling it."

Ironically, the Mayor came to a meeting of the Bernal Heights Democratic Club the day after this press conference. Although he talked about many of the same issues, the atmosphere was different. There were several African-Americans and Latinos in attendance, a refreshing change

Continued on page 15

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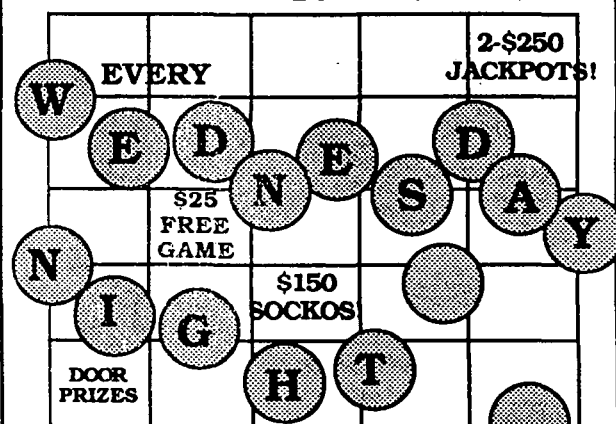
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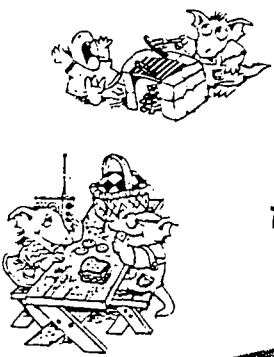


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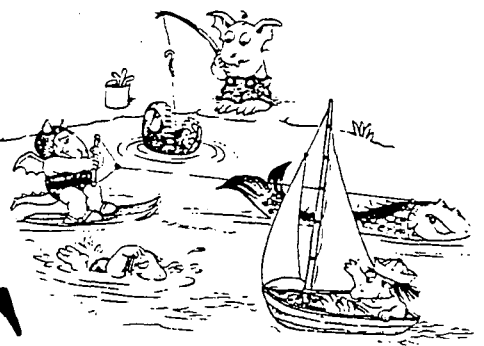
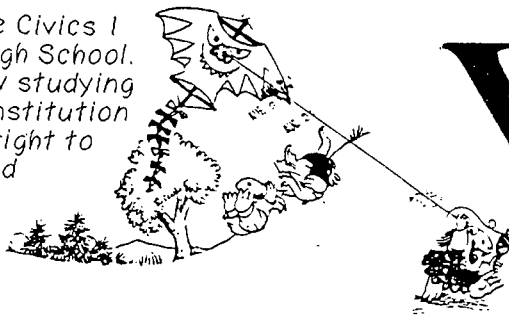


At the Bernal Heights community center, Efren Uchi-age 17, and Claudia Hernandez-age 16 work their way through the summer, but that doesn't mean work isn't fun. Efren is having a ball because "it's fun being with the seniors," and Claudia, a second time summer employee, knows how to have good times even with only a typewriter to smile with.



# BERNAL YOUTH

These eager students belong to the Civics I summer school class at Mission High School. What do you think? Are they really studying hard about the workings of the constitution or are they exercising their given right to pursue happiness by kicking back and relaxing?



## Lend A Hand To The Alemany Youth

By Taga, Dachey, and Meco

### Questions to the Community from the Alemany Youth —

*The health of the community is determined by how the community treats its youth.*

- \* As a community, what are you doing for your youth?
- \* As a business, are you doing anything for your youth?
- \* As an organization in the community, what are you doing for your youth?
- \* As an individual, are you contributing to the welfare of your youth?
- \* Have you had an opportunity as an organization, community member, or business to help with the youth concern?
- \* Are you able to identify that concern?
- \* Are you aware of the Alemany Youth organization that serves the youth in your community?
- \* Are you willing to contribute time, energy, and materials to benefit the youth?
- \* Do you as an individual find it meaningful to contribute to the youth?

- \* In what way have you contributed to the youth?
- \* Do you believe adult community members should be responsible for youth development?
- \* If so, in what way do you feel the adults can help the youth?

If you have answered Positive to one of the above questions, why have the Alemany Youth not heard from you? We thank those who have contributed, and for those who have not, don't complain about the youth, assist us! You can call the Center at 641-1116 to volunteer, and here is a list of materials we need if you have an opportunity to contribute that way:

### The Alemany Tutorial & After School Program Needs:

Television monitor  
VCR  
Chalk Board, chalk, and erasers  
Computer and printer  
Nintendo  
Spanish-English dictionary  
Coloring books and crayons  
Pencils  
Cases of Binders and ruled paper  
K through 5 workbooks  
Educational games  
Plastic horseshoe sets  
1,000 marbles  
Typewriter, extra ribbons, and correction tape  
35mm film  
At least 20 Muni Youth Passes every month



## FOCUS



Down at the St. Kevin's summer blast are four fun-filled youth enjoying a friendly game of "Sorry". From left to right there is Reynaldo Pacheco-age 7, Javier Serta-age 5, Cristian Yanga-age 9, and Miguel Jimenez-age 6. These guys should have warned me that I'd be sorry after taking their pictures. They captured me and also half a roll of film with their winning smiles.

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## Kid Power Of The Library

By Liza Rivera, age 10

Hello, I'm a Kid Power Volunteer. My name is Liza Rivera. The purpose of Kid Power is to let children, ages 10-16, experience what a librarian does. Two of the librarians are Ms. Cathy Bremer and Ms. Dorothy Coakley. Kid Power is a lot of fun. At the end of summer we'll get 2 tickets to the Lazerium in Golden Gate Park.

I'm going to run for president in Kid Power. All my friends are in Kid Power. Our summer reading program is going great.

Well, if you are between the age of 10 to 16, come and ask Ms. Dorothy Coakley to sign you up in Kid Power!



Some of the KidPower Kids: Nicole White, Vice-President Angelica Gomez, President Liza Rivera, Delandreas Benete, Luis Guillen, and Dolores Aviles.

## Youth Work Expanding at the Foundation

By Helen Helfer  
BHCF Executive Director

Good News: The former MISY Program (Mayor's In-School Youth jobs program) is being reconstituted. The Board of Supervisors has just passed a Budget for \$750,000 city-wide, and the program should get started in September. Bernal Heights Community Foundation.

along with the eleven other former MISY organizations, have been meeting at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Center to plan for effectively using this new source of support for our youth. We will keep you posted on this exciting city-wide effort. If you would like to work with the Foundation on these and other youth programs, please call our Youth Committee Chair, Mauricio Vela, to find out how you can help.

Last Minute items: Sean Herron has joined us as a Volunteer Housing Assistant, and we appreciate the contribution he has already made. Finally, the long-awaited Grand Opening Celebration of the Coleridge Park Apartments will be on Monday, September 18, 5:30 pm, at 190 Coleridge Street. Come cut the ribbon with us.



It's 8:30 on a Summer morning, and this hard-working group of neighborhood young people is already waiting for the bus that will take them to their jobs at Marriott's Great America: Terry Seguisabal, Mel Valenzuela, Leandre Oquendo, Catina Johnson, Simone Stevens, Aquilla Hardy, Kahassai Tafes, Brian Maltez, Katherine Koon, and Jonathan Grospe.

## Mother Goose Revisited

By Little Peoples Workshop Parent

Sing a song of daycare,  
Big room full of kids,  
Eleven tiny egos  
At the mercy of their ids.  
Ronat's at the table  
Looking calm and sunny,  
Augie's at the front door  
And his nose is runny.  
Amy's in the kitchen  
With food for us to share;  
Shelly won't be happy  
Til she pulls Naima's hair.  
Mario wants a story,  
Jaron wants to dance,  
I think I'd rather not find out  
What's in Patrick's pants.  
Peter's pushing Tegan  
For the fiftieth time today,  
Leo's on the ladder  
In a crimson negligee.  
Someone's dumped a bowl of spaghetti  
In my lap;  
Amethyst and Zoe  
Have decided not to nap.  
Guess they're all asleep,  
I'll leave Patrick's pants to soak,  
A voice inside the nap room yells:  
"It's not a funny joke!"  
Napping can't be done it seems,  
Let's take them for a walk;  
One hundred eighty minutes  
Til it's finally five o'clock.  
Little People's Workshop has openings.  
For information call 648-5156.

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<b>SUN</b> 4 to 8 Black Orpheus Brazilian Music		<b>Rock &amp; Roll</b> 10 to 1 World Entertainment War Yes No Maybe	
<b>Black Orpheus</b> Brazilian Music		<b>World Entertainment War</b> Yes No Maybe	
<b>Tumbao y Cuerdas</b> Charanga Cuban Music		<b>Motown Dance Party</b> MVP Girls Can't Help It	
<b>Candela</b> Salsa		<b>American Music Club</b>	
<b>Stephen Herrick Sextet</b> Clarinet Latin Fusion, Pop		<b>Eskimo</b> 501 Spanish Verbs	
<b>Tom Ammiano</b> Monica Grant Lank and Earl		<b>Midnight Movers</b> Dance Blues	
<b>Danny Williams</b> Marilyn Pittman Scott Capurro		<b>Stephen Herrick Quintet</b> Clarinet R&B Pop Fusion	

282-3325  
3158 Mission

## Bernal Heights Senior Program

# Senior News



## The Bernal Heights Senior Program's 10th Anniversary!

Ten years ago on September 10, 1979, the Bernal Heights Senior Program served its first nutritious hot lunch, held its first exercise class and presented its first health education program. In 1989, the Bernal Heights Senior Program is still going strong, the result of many years of work and dedication by those who care about our community's elderly.

Bernal community concern and effort is exemplified in the development of the Bernal Heights Senior Program, as the program was organized by community members who saw a need for a place for seniors to congregate at, enjoy a nutritious hot meal and receive a variety of information and programs to enable them to remain well and independent.

On September 9th of this year, the Bernal Heights Senior Program will hold its 10th Anniversary Celebration at the Neighborhood Center. All senior citizens, as well as the Bernal Community, are invited to celebrate this joyous occasion from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm which is highlighted by the sweet sounds of "Johnny Val-lungu and His Band." Delicious homecooked foods will grace the potluck luncheon at the celebration and there will also be a presentation that looks back at the Senior Program over the years and honors those hardworking individuals who made the Senior Program a special place to be.

## Important Volunteer Needed By Bernal Elderly

By volunteering three hours once a month, you will provide a very important nutritional service to the elderly of Bernal Heights. The Bernal Heights Senior Program obtains twelve Senior Food Boxes from the EOC each month that contains a staple supply of foods from fruit juices to canned vegetables and meats for elderly who are homebound. We need a friendly, dedicated volunteer who has their own vehicle to transport the food boxes throughout the Bernal Heights neighborhood. Please call Vicki or Mary at the Senior Program at 648-0330. Thanks!

## Layettes for Newborns

Can you crochet a pair of booties or knit a cap for a baby? If you can, we need your skills! The nurses of Health Center #3 are starting a new project of creating layettes for the newborns of young mothers in our area. If you can't knit or crochet, you can still help by donating new layette articles such as receiving blankets, gowns, undershirts and booties or soft, 3-ply yarn. Please call Vicki at the Senior Program 648-0330.

## Social Security?? Medicare??

Applying for and receiving your Social Security or Medicare benefits and claims can be a very confusing and frustrating process at times. The folks at Legal Assistance to the Elderly can help you with your questions and problems through their Health Insurance Counseling Program at 861-4444.

## August & September Activities

All activities are hosted by the Bernal Heights Senior Program, located at the Neighborhood Center at 515 Cortland Avenue. For more information call 648-0330.

### August

- August 6th Sun. 10-4 Free! Flea Market**  
You can find a second hand treasure or an unbeatable bargain at this community flea market.
- August 9th Wed. 9-1pm Bake Sale**  
Where else can you buy a delicious cupcake for only 25¢!
- August 27th Sun. 6-8pm Family Night Dinner**  
Bring your friends and family our fundraising dinner (tickets only \$8/adults, \$5 seniors or children).
- August 28th Mon. 10 - 2pm Birthday Party & Dance**  
Held every month at the St. Kevin's Hall, all seniors are welcome to dance to a liveband and celebrate!

### September

- September 8th Fri. 1-3pm BINGO!**  
Win a \$25 cover all game at our 10th Anniversary Special Bingo Game. \$2 (3 cards).
- September 9th, Sat. 11-3pm Free! 10th Anniversary Celebration!**  
Join us in this gala party to celebrate the Senior Program's 10th year! Live band, potluck lunch, raffle and more!

Bernal Heights Senior Program Presents:

Bernal Heights Community

## FLEA MARKET



SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1989

10am - 4pm • ADMISSION FREE!

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center  
515 Cortland Ave. (at Andover), SF, 648-0330

Bernal Heights Senior Program Invites You!

## Family Night Dinner

A Delicious Dinner With Your Friends, Family & Neighbors

\$8/adults, \$5 seniors & children

Sunday, August 27, 1989  
6:00 - 8:00 pm

Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center  
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# Getting Things Done In The Neighborhood

By Action Jackson

Too often we complain about dirty streets, burned out street lights, lack of parking, un-responsive police officers, and sluggish city officials. We complain to our family members, our neighbors, and just about anyone who will listen. But when it comes to actually doing something about the problem, we run into a brick wall. Who do we call? And how do we start? How do we get those people to do what they're supposed to do? Sometimes it seems like a big complicated mess, and nothing will make a difference.

Well that is not true. Today, in Bernal Heights, there is plenty of evidence that people are able to make a difference and get something done. The speed bumps on Mirabel Street were the result of active organizing and pressure applied to the City. The stop lights at Precita and Folsom came about after a little girl was run down and killed by a speeding motorist, and her neighbors organized and went to the Board of Supervisors. The open space at the top of the hill is there because neighbors organized years ago to save it from development, and got the City to purchase the land as a park. The Precita Center was built by residents as a community center after World War I. More recently, we came together to pressure the City to remodel the Community Center on Cortland Avenue. Everywhere you look in Bernal Heights you can find a monument to people who got together with their neighbors to make a difference. They did it, and so can you!

## How to Get Things Done

1. Get to know your neighbors.
2. Organize a meeting to discuss the problem, and determine who can help you solve it. (See Action Jackson's "Guide to People Who Can Help You Get Things Done")
3. Invite the person who can help you solve your problem to a neighborhood meeting. This person is the "guest." Hand out fliers door to door. Ask each person to talk to five other people about the problem, and invite them to the meeting.
4. Present the problem to your "guest" and ask them what they can do to help you solve it. Get definite commitments on what they will do and the dates that it will be done by. Arrange a follow-up meeting with the "guest" to make sure that they deliver.
5. Send a letter to your "guest," with copies to appropriate parties, like his or her boss. If the "guest" doesn't make good on promises, go up the ladder to their boss, and to their bosses' boss.
6. Be persistent! Don't give up!

If you have questions regarding a problem that you and your neighbors would like to solve, or a story about a major victory for the neighborhood, please send them to Action Jackson, in care of the *Bernal Journal*.

heart is better than having none at all.

During his first year in office, Agnos has proven himself to be one tough dude. He has had to take it as well as dish it out. Apparently his years in the State Assembly taught him how to play rough and move his agenda. He knows how to reward his enemies and punish his friends. He has the ruthlessness of FDR, and maybe the vision. I can't help but wonder about his ambition. Cranston can't stay in office forever. Perhaps Agnos wants to be President someday, a liberal Democrat who can balance a budget, while demonstrating empathetic leadership. At this point, his major political obstacle appears to be the homeless people living in Civic Center Plaza. Although no one accuses him of creating the problem, he's under a lot of pressure to "do something about it." Agnos has made a commitment to both helping the homeless and moving them out of the Plaza, and accomplishing this in a way that will enhance his position and reputation will require every ounce of his skill and experience.

Like many San Franciscans, I've become pretty cynical about politics. I voted for Will Durst in the last election, and Jello Biafra in the one before that. Even though I should probably know better, and as much as I hate to admit it, Art Agnos, his policies, his courage, his confidence, and his abilities, give me a dirty little hope for the future. After what I've lived through in the past ten years, I guess I have to be happy with that, because it's an improvement.



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Jamestown Community Center

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## Action Jackson's Guide To People Who Can Help You Get Things Done

**Mayor Art Agnos:**  
Room 200, City Hall, SF CA 94102  
554-6141

**Mayor's Office of Citizen Assistance:**  
Room 160, City Hall, SF CA 94102  
554-7111.

This office will advise you as to who is responsible for solving your problem, and will help you put pressure on the right official.

**San Francisco Board of Supervisors**  
235 City Hall 94102  
554-5184

**Harry G. Britt, President**  
554-5145

**Angela Alioto**  
554-7788

**Jim Gonzales**  
554-5338

**Terrance Hallinan**  
554-7766

**Richard Hongisto**  
554-5664

**Tom Hsieh**  
554-5015

**Willie B. Kennedy**  
554-5734

**Bill Maher**  
554-5401

**Wendy Nelder**  
554-5497

**Nancy G. Walker**  
554-5943

**Doris M. Ward**  
554-5867

**Law Enforcement:**  
**FOR AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911**  
Non-emergency Police Number: 553-0123

**Frank M. Jordan, Chief of Police**  
San Francisco Police Department  
Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
553-1551

**Captain Philpot, Ingleside Station**  
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San Francisco, CA 94112  
553-1603

**Supervisor of Police Communications: 553-1303**  
Call that number if you can't get help on either 911 or 553-0123.  
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Burglary Detail: 553-1351

**Crime Scene Investigation Unit (Fingerprints):**  
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**Citizen Complaints:**  
Hall of Justice, Room 565  
Phone: 553-1407

**Information on towed vehicles: 553-1235**  
**Report and quiet barking dogs: 553-1159**  
**To get an illegally parked car towed: 553-0123**  
**To remove abandoned cars: Call 781-JUNK.**  
Report the license number of the car, make and model, and the street address where it is located. This is an automatic answering machine ready to take your request 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.  
**For construction trucks blocking the street: 553-0123**

*Part II of "Action Jackson's Guide" will appear in the next issue of the Bernal Journal*

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